

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 PARIS 004019

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR INR/R/MR; IIP/RW; IIP/RNY; BBG/VOA; IIP/WEU; AF/PA;  
EUR/WE /P/SP; D/C (MCCOO); EUR/PA; INR/P; INR/EUC; PM; OSC ISA  
FOR ILN; NEA; WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC/WEUROPE; DOC FOR ITA/EUR/FR  
AND PASS USTR/PA; USINCEUR FOR PAO; NATO/PA; MOSCOW/PA;  
ROME/PA; USVIENNA FOR USDEL OSCE.

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [FR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - ERDOGAN IN WASHINGTON -RUN-UP  
TO THE G8 - A/S FRIED IN PARIS - NATO AND DARFUR  
PARIS - THURSDAY, JUNE 09, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

1. ERDOGAN IN WASHINGTON
2. RUN-UP TO THE G8
3. A/S FRIED IN PARIS
4. NATO AND DARFUR

(B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

PRIME MINISTER DE VILLEPIN'S SPEECH YESTERDAY ON STRATEGIES TO  
BOOST EMPLOYMENT IN FRANCE DOMINATE HEADLINES. RIGHT-WING  
ORIENTED DAILIES LABEL DE VILLEPIN'S SPEECH AS "NOT BAD"  
(POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANCE SOIR) AND "ATTACKING THE  
RIGIDITY OF LABOR LAWS," (ECONOMIC LA TRIBUNE) LEFT-WING  
DAILIES INSIST THAT THE PLAN PROMOTES "PRECARIOUSNESS" (LEFT-  
OF-CENTER LIBERATION) AND THE "SOCIAL RIFT." (COMMUNIST  
L'HUMANITE)

ANDRE FONTAINE, FOR LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE, PENS AN OP-ED ON  
THE AMERICAN REACTION TO THE APPOINTMENT OF DE VILLEPIN, THE  
VICTORY OF THE 'NO' AND EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION. "PRIOR TO THE  
CONFLICT IN IRAQ. DE VILLEPIN, EMBODIED THE RESENTMENT, ON THE  
OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC [THAT CAME ABOUT AFTER FRANCE'S  
THREAT OF VETO AT THE UN]. TODAY, DE VILLEPIN'S RISE TO POWER  
IS VIEWED UNENTHUSIASTICALLY ON THE BANKS OF THE POTOMAC. THE  
VICTORY OF THE NO VOTE IS CERTAINLY TO GEORGE BUSH'S LIKING  
SINCE IT PROVES THAT 'OLD EUROPE' IS FOR THE TIME BEING DOWN  
FOR THE COUNT."

RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO CARRIES AN ARTICLE BY GEORGES  
MALBRUNOT ON SECRET MEETINGS IN AMMAN OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS  
BETWEEN SUNNI GUERRILLAS AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO  
STABILIZE IRAQ WHILE POLITICALLY INTEGRATING THE ARMED FACTION  
OF THE SUNNI POPULATION. "WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THESE  
MEETINGS, THE STATE DEPARTMENT DID NOT RESPOND."

BILATERAL MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN PRESIDENT BUSH AND  
BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR ON TUESDAY AND TURKISH PRIME  
MINISTER TAYYIP ERDOGAN YESTERDAY ARE WIDELY REPORTED. (SEE  
PART C)

SUMMARIZING BLAIR'S' TRIP TO WASHINGTON, LEFT-OF-CENTER LE  
MONDE'S CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK, CORINNE LESNES, WROTE:  
"THOSE IN BRITAIN WHO SAY THAT THEIR PRIME MINISTER RARELY  
GETS MUCH FROM MR. BUSH DESPITE HIS INDEFATIGABLE SUPPORT OF  
THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT, WILL BE COMFORTED IN THEIR POSITION BY  
THE LACK OF RESULTS PRODUCED FROM BLAIR'S VISIT TO  
WASHINGTON." HOWEVER, POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANCE SOIR  
TAKES A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT VIEW CALLING PRESIDENTS BUSH'S  
PROMISES TO TONY BLAIR DURING HIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON  
"ASTONISHING" AND GOING SO FAR AS TO WONDER IF THE PRESIDENT  
HAS NOT BECOME A SUPPORTER OF ANTI-GLOBALIZATION. ECONOMIC LES  
ECHOS, FOR ITS PART, STATES THAT "BUSH AND BLAIR ARE ON THE  
SAME WAVELENGTH" AND THAT "TONY BLAIR DID NOT GO HOME EMPTY-  
HANDED."

PRIME MINISTER BLAIR'S MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT BUSH, INTENDED  
TO NEGOTIATE ISSUES THAT WILL BE AT THE HEART OF TALKS DURING  
THE UPCOMING G8 IN SCOTLAND, PROMPTS LEFT-OF-CENTER  
LIBERATION'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT TO ANALYZE THE U.S.  
ADMINISTRATION'S CLIMATE CHANGE POLICIES. (SEE PART C)

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS DAN FRIED'S VISIT TO  
PARIS CONTINUES TO GET MEDIA ATTENTION TODAY IN ANOTHER  
POSITIVE STORY RELAYING THE U.S. DESIRE FOR A STRONG EUROPE.  
A/S FRIED IS EXTENSIVELY QUOTED IN LIBERATION BY VERONIQUE  
SOULE IN AN ARTICLE ENTITLED: "WASHINGTON IS WORRIED ABOUT THE  
CRISIS IN EUROPE." (SEE PART C)

IN ECONOMIC DAILY LES ECHOS, EDITORIALIST JACQUES HUBERT-  
RODIER ANALYZES CHANGES IN NATO IN LIGHT OF ITS INVOLVEMENT IN  
AFRICA, NAMELY IN SUDAN. (SEE PART C)

RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO REPORTS ON BRITISH DIPLOMACY'S  
OVERTURES TO HAMAS. "ISRAEL IS ALARMED TO WITNESS THE EUROPEAN  
AND AMERICAN SOFTENING OF THEIR POSITION ON HAMAS. THIS

ILLUSTRATES THE AWKWARD POSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNITY WITH REGARD TO THE DEMOCRATIC OPENING OF THE  
PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES."  
(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:  
ERDOGAN IN WASHINGTON

"ERDOGAN AND BUSH BURY THE HATCHET"  
NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT JEAN-LOUIS TURLIN IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE  
FIGARO (06/09): "THE MEETING BETWEEN BUSH AND ERDOGAN WAS  
ESPECIALLY USEFUL IN THAT IT PRESENTED AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT  
THE TENSIONS CREATED BY THE INVASION OF IRAQ BEHIND THEM.  
WASHINGTON COUNTS ON ANKARA ON A NUMBER OF FRONTS, STARTING  
WITH THE STABILIZATION OF IRAQ. FOR GEORGE BUSH, TAYYIP  
ERDOGAN IS AN IMPORTANT ALLY IN THAT HIS COUNTRY IS THE ONLY  
MUSLIM STATE TO BE PART OF NATO AND TURKEY SUPPORTS THE  
INITIATIVE FOR THE BROADER MIDDLE EAST. IN RETURN, ERDOGAN  
NEEDS GEORGE BUSH'S BACKING CONCERNING TURKEY'S DESIRE TO  
BECOME PART OF THE EU AND, IN A MORE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, WITH  
THE OPENING UP OF THE TURKISH PART OF CYPRESS."

RUN-UP TO THE G8

"BUSH UNDER PRESSURE OVER THE CLIMATE"  
PASCAL RICHE IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION (06/09): "BY CURTLY  
REFUSING TO RATIFY THE KYOTO PROTOCOL. GEORGE W. BUSH THOUGHT  
THAT HE WAS RID OF THE ISSUE FOREVER. BIG MISTAKE! THE  
PRESIDENT HAS CEASELESSLY BEEN UNDER PRESSURE ON THIS QUESTION  
SINCE HE TOOK OFFICE. THE WHITE HOUSE HAS CONTINUED TO HAMMER  
THE SAME MESSAGE AND TUESDAY, WITH TONY BLAIR BY HIS SIDE,  
GEORGE BUSH SAID THAT CLIMATE CHANGE IS A SERIOUS LONG-TERM  
PROBLEM, THE INNUENDO BEING 'WE ARE IN NO RUSH' AND THAT THE  
U.S. WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MORE INFORMATION MEANING 'NOTHING IS  
PROVEN.'"

"GEORGE W. BUSH PART OF THE ANTI-GLOBALIZATION MOVEMENT?"  
SACHA BALIT VANDERBROUCK IN POPULAR RIGHT-OF-CENTER FRANCE  
SOIR (06/09): "LEAVING BEHIND HIM HIS TENDENCY TOWARDS  
UNBRIDLED GLOBALIZATION. THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT, HAND-IN-HAND  
WITH TONY BLAIR, PROPOSED TO DO AWAY WITH THE DEBT OWED BY THE  
WORLD'S POOREST COUNTRIES DURING THE UPCOMING G8 SUMMIT. THE  
ISSUE REMAINS THE FINANCING OF THIS PROPOSAL WITH LONDON AND  
WASHINGTON SUPPORTING DIFFERENT MEASURES. GEORGE W. BUSH HAS  
ALSO FOUND OUT THAT HE IS AN ECOLOGIST. RECOGNIZING THAT  
CLIMATE CHANGE IS A SERIOUS ISSUE. HE HAS DISCOVERED  
INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND NATURE PRESERVATION ALL IN ONE  
FELL SWOOP. PERHAPS THIS STEMS FROM A DESIRE TO RESTORE HIS  
IMAGE WHICH HAS BEEN TARNISHED OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS."

A/S FRIED IN PARIS

"WASHINGTON IS WORRIED ABOUT THE CRISIS IN EUROPE"  
VERONIQUE SOULE COMMENTED IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LIBERATION  
(06/19): "INSTEAD OF RE-OPENING OLD WOUNDS, ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY DAN FRIED WAS IN PARIS TUESDAY TO EXPRESS THE DEEP

SIPDIS  
CONCERN IN WASHINGTON OVER THE CRISIS IN EUROPE THAT WAS  
SPARKED BY THE DOUBLE NO VOTE TO THE CONSTITUTION. INDEED,  
WASHINGTON IS WORRIED THAT IF EUROPE CLOSES IN ON ITSELF AS A  
RESULT OF AN INTERNAL CRISIS, IT WILL DIVERT ITS ATTENTION  
FROM BROADER INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. FRIED'S PRO-EUROPEAN STANCE  
REFLECTS THE NEW POSITION OF THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION SINCE  
BUSH'S RE-ELECTION. BUT THIS IS NOT TO SAY THAT THE NEO-  
CONSERVATIVES HAVE COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED AND FOR THEM A  
WEAKER EUROPE IS EXCELLENT NEWS AS IS THE HUMILIATION OF  
JACQUES CHIRAC."

NATO AND DARFUR

"WHEN NATO TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE BY WAY OF AFRICA"  
JACQUES HUBERT-RODIER IN ECONOMIC LES ECHOS (06/09): "AFTER  
TAKING PART IN PEACE KEEPING OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN AND  
CONTRIBUTING TO TRAIN THE IRAQI ARMY, [NATO] WHICH HAS  
EXPANDED TO THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES FROM THE ANCIENT  
SOVIET BLOCK, HAS NOW GROWN TO 26 MEMBERS, AND IS PURSUING A  
NECESSARY TRANSFORMATION WITH THE END OF THE COLD WAR. IT HAS  
DISCREETLY ADDED TO ITS LIST OF REASONS FOR CONTINUING TO  
EXIST HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTIONS. IN THIS WAY, NATO PROVES  
ITS ABILITY TO SURVIVE THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL AND THE  
DISMANTLING OF THE WARSAW PACT IN 1991 THAT HAD LINKED THE  
EASTERN EUROPEAN SATELLITE COUNTRIES TO THE USSR. NATO  
ASSISTANCE LIKE THAT ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS OR OF  
EUROPE TO THE AFRICAN UNION, ARRIVES AT A CRUCIAL MOMENT FOR  
THIS REGION. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT EVEN THE INDIRECT PRESENCE  
OF NATO IN AFRICA IS THE CONSEQUENCE NOT ONLY OF ITS  
TRANSFORMATION, STARTED TWO YEARS AGO, BUT ALSO OF THE END OF  
AN ERA IN AFRICA IN WHICH ONLY FORMER COLONIAL POWERS PLAYED A  
ROLE. TODAY, OTHER POWERS, LIKE CHINA AND THE UNITED STATES,  
HAVE A ROLE TO PLAY. TO UNDERSCORE THE URGENCY OF THE  
SITUATION, WASHINGTON HAS SOUNDED THE ALARM BY REFERRING TO  
ATROCITIES IN THE REGION AS 'GENOCIDE,' A TERM, HOWEVER NOT  
USED BY NATO AND THE MAJORITY OF THE NONGOVERNMENTAL  
ORGANIZATIONS ON THE GROUND. THE UNITED STATES HAS TONED DOWN  
ITS OPPOSITION TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT. TO TRY WAR  
CRIMINALS. IN EXCHANGE FOR THE APPROVAL OF OTHER MEMBERS OF  
THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF NATO'S PRESENCE IN AFRICA." WOLFF